

## **WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report March 2005**

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### **1. “Women Fly!” a Soaring Success**

Men and women of all ages flocked to the Museum of Flight on March 11-12 to participate in “Women Fly!” This unique annual event celebrates contributions of women in aviation and aerospace. During “Women Fly!” successful women aviators served as mentors, encouraging young girls to pursue their passion for flying regardless of the gender stereotypes that may exist. Each year, “Women Fly!” attracts nationally prominent female speakers, and this year was no exception. From the first and only woman to ever pilot the Concorde, to a woman who flew Huey helicopter attack missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom, these incredible women inspired audiences from different genders, backgrounds, and generations.



WSDOT Aviation contributed items to the “Women Fly!” gift bags and secured 50 free flight lessons from Harvey Field for raffle prizes. WSDOT Aviation’s Marilee Jensen and Nisha Hanchinamani served on the “Women Fly!” steering committee, participating in several months of preparation for the event. Jensen and Hanchinamani also emceed two panel discussions with the featured speakers on Saturday, March 12. WSDOT will continue to support the efforts of “Women Fly!” to educate young girls about the vast, but sometimes unknown, aviation opportunities available to them.

## 2. States Fight for Full Funding of Aviation Budget

The President's proposed budget dramatically cuts aviation spending for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). Deeply concerned about impacts to U.S. airports, WSDOT Aviation Director, John Sibold, along with other state aviation directors called upon Congress to reinstate funding to previous authorized levels. The link below is a summary of the position paper NASAO presented to Congressional Members on behalf of all states.

[NASAO 2005 National Legislative Agenda March 2005](#)

## 3. Methow Valley State Airport Runway Closed March 28 - 29

For two days in March, the runway at Methow Valley State Airport will be closed for maintenance.

*The runway closure will last from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Monday, March 28 through Tuesday, March 29.*



During the closure, crews from the Washington State Department of Transportation will repair cracks in Methow's 5,000-foot runway and connecting taxiways. In April 2005, the state-operated airport will receive additional maintenance to seal and repaint its runway.

Located five miles south of Winthrop, Methow Valley State Airport is used regularly as a firebase by the North Cascades Smoke Jumpers. WSDOT crews will coordinate to complete runway improvements before the potentially busy fire season begins.

[View more information about Methow Valley State Airport.](#)

## 4. More State-Operated Airports Open for the Season

Thanks to the mild winter and low snow pack, nine of the 16 state-operated airports have opened early for the season. Sullivan Lake State is due to open on Saturday, April 9 after its inspection by Adopt-an-Airport volunteers. Most state-operated airports are expected to open by mid May – just in time for the busy summer flying season. Many airports are also getting prepped for what is expected to be a busy fire season. During the last two years WSDOT Aviation has monitored firefighting helicopter activity at state airports. WSDOT has established and enhanced communication methods to inform pilots and visitors when firefighters are using the state airports.



## **5. WSDOT Aviation Honored for Contributions to Seaplane System**

At the annual Washington Seaplane Dinner at the Museum of Flight, Aviation Director John Sibold accepted an award on behalf of WSDOT for its role in preserving and enhancing seaplane facilities in the state. Specifically recognized were WSDOT's recent efforts to:



- Maintain the seaplane dock at American Lake.
- Provide the Port of Olympia with a grant to construct a new seaplane dock.
- Participate in protecting Lake Union seaplane operations from incompatible uses resulting from "Concerts at the Park."

WSDOT is engaged in discussions with the National Seaplane Association to develop national guidelines that could be used to protect seaplane landing areas across the country.